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Letter dated 14 December 2016 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

The present letter is to inform the Council of the signing, ratification and entry into force of the final peace agreement between the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia — People's Army (FARC-EP).

On 24 November 2016, the two parties signed the revised Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace. The Final Agreement was ratified by the Colombian Congress on 30 November, following votes in the Senate on 29 November and the House of Representatives on 30 November.

The provisions of the Final Agreement pertaining to the bilateral and definitive ceasefire and cessation of hostilities and the laying down of arms are unchanged from those set out in the agreement that was signed in Cartagena on 24 September 2016. Those provisions informed my recommendations on the size, operational aspects and mandate of the United Nations Mission in Colombia set out in my report of 18 August 2016 (S/2016/729) and approved by the Security Council on 13 September 2016 in its resolution 2307 (2016).

In a joint press statement of 1 December 2016, the Government of Colombia and FARC-EP confirmed that the Final Agreement had entered into force on 1 December 2016, following its ratification by the Colombian Congress. The parties confirmed, furthermore, that this date would be considered "D" day, as defined in the Final Agreement, thus initiating the timetable for the implementation of its provisions relating to the ceasefire, cessation of hostilities and laying down of arms.

The United Nations Mission in Colombia is accordingly proceeding to implementation of the full range of its mandated tasks, as set out in Security Council resolutions 2261 (2016) and 2307 (2016).

The signing, ratification and entry into force of the Final Agreement is a momentous achievement for the parties and for the people of Colombia. The United Nations Mission in Colombia, along with the parties, is intensifying efforts to meet the challenging requirements of implementation. My forthcoming report to the Security Council on the implementation of the Mission's mandate will elaborate on progress to date and the next steps in this process.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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